



Docket No. DEP0546

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor:	Serhan et al.	Group Art Unit:	3732
Serial No.:	09/822,126	Examiner:	Manahan, Todd E.
Filed:	March 30, 2001		
Title:	Intervertebral Connection System		

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I, Amy Schick, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on October 17, 2005.

Amy Schick (signature)  
Amy Schick

October 17, 2005 (date)

Thomas M. DiMauro (name of Registered Representative)

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RESPONSE, INCLUDING AMENDMENT**

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed April 18, 2005, which set a three-month shortened statutory period for response. A three-month extension of time to respond to the Office Action is hereby requested. This response is filed timely upon mailing, with an executed certificate of mailing, on or before October 18, 2005. 37 CFR §§ 1.8 and 1.136. As the response to the above-captioned office action was due on July 18, 2005, please provide for a THREE (3) month extension of time and charge the

appropriate fee which is due to Deposit Account No. 10-0750, but do not include any payment of issue fees. Accordingly, the due date for response is now October 18, 2005. 37 CFR § 1.17.

If any additional fee is due, please charge that additional fee (or credit any overpayment) to Deposit Account No. 10-0750.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-captioned patent application and entry of the below amendments and added claim in view of the following amendments and remarks:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of the claims, which begins at page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin at page 13 of this paper.